

YORK TOWNSHIP

Special Meeting October 05, 2021

Trustees – Chairman Richard Monroe, Todd Zieja, William Pavlick,
Fiscal Officer Margaret (Peggy) Russell

Present:

Trustee, Rick Monroe, Chairman
Trustee Bill Pavlick
Trustee Todd Zieja
Fiscal Officer Peggy Russell

Also Present:

Residents

Chairman Rick Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Trustee Monroe stated the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

Town Hall, Zoning, Cemetery After interviewing 5 candidates, Karen Hammon was the standout choice, based on her skill sets. RESOLUTION 21-10-01 Hire Karen Hammon as administrative assistant for \$14.00 per hour for 5 – 15 hours per week as needed. **Moved** by Trustee Zieja, second by Trustee Pavlick. Roll: Monroe, yes; Pavlick, yes; Zieja, yes.

Trustees

Snow Plow Contract/Expectations

Dale and Alex Sherman attended the meeting to understand township expectations for snow plowing season, be advised on problem areas and ask preseason questions. Usually the township has no plowing at night, from 11pm – 4 am unless blizzard conditions or communication with trustees for additional work. For two trucks, the township is a two-hour route. Sherman's have two trucks ready to go for plowing and have additional pickup trucks for cleanup and support. The township also has one truck equipped with a salt bin and plow to lend additional support and clean up. Our maintenance crew all work for the county, so they will not always be available. Trustee Pavlick went over the following areas of concern for our problem spots in the township.

- Wolff and Abbeyville – is an ongoing problem area based on the hill, the curves and the stop sign it needs to be well salted and regularly cleaned up.
- Branch Road Bridge – the bridge has grooves cut into it, and it gets plowed and salted, but when the sun goes down there is a tendency for it to freeze and be icy.
- Forest Creek /Marks – Where it opens up on the road, the water lies there covering a portion of the road and refreezes at night causing slippery conditions.
- Stone Road – is wide open from Columbia to SR 18. Because of the school traffic this needs to be well maintained. Alex stated his mother-in-law is the Buckeye Bus Superintendent. He expects to be in regular correspondence with her over the upcoming winter season to ensure clear roads for bus transportation. Fabrizi would normally be out early to open the roads up before school, then salt after plowing to let it work and try and be off road while school busses were out and hit it again.
- Emerald Woods has no shoulder and plow trucks can end up in the shoulder.
- Spieth and Stations Roads have soft shoulders, which have been known to suck plow trucks off road. Any damage caused by plow trucks are generally repaired in the spring.

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- Fire Complex – needs to be regularly inspected and cleaned for emergency vehicle use.
- Sidewalk shovel at Fire Complex will be taken care of by Sherman as well.
- Community Park Lot needs to be cleaned regularly. Our maintenance crew may be able to offer supplemental help as schedules permit.
- Cemetery – we need contact numbers to call for cleanup for burials. Numbers for Dale, Alex and the Office (8am-4pm) were made available.
- Maps – are provided and made available. Sherman will have two dry runs with crews to establish routes and understand township borders, specially on roads like Erhart, Gayer and Stiegler that are shared between two townships, and roads like Spieth and Lester that are shared with the County.

Sherman Questions –

- Who will make the decision to plow, should they plow as needed or wait for trustee authorization. They will work closely with the trustees this year. Trustee Monroe will be the contact during November.
- Snow Removal – Occasionally it may be necessary to have a loader to move heavy, wet, accumulative snow from the complex. The old schoolhouse property is a possible site to move excess snow.
- Salt – any salt left after storm is owned by township and not returned to the engineer. Sherman and Sons has a covered building where trucks will be stored between storms to cover salt. Billable time starts when trucks leave the Sherman shop.
- Hunter's Trail – no salt, plow only. Trustees will make sure the list of private roads including Stillwater, Shale Creek and the Golf Course is known.
- State Level Emergency – The expectation is Sherman will be out plowing. If they wait out the storm, it would be too difficult to catch up.
- Mailboxes – Sherman must replace anything that is hit by their truck. Documentation if they are able to take a picture at the time of damage it is helpful. Mailboxes that are knocked over by heavy snow are property owner's responsibility. The Rubbermaid boxes seem prone to being knocked down. Trustees recommend the homeowners take precautions to fortify posts and place shields in front of boxes. They also recommend Shermans have temporary mailboxes available with bucket and cement for those that go down due to the plow. Over half of the requests for mailbox replacement are determined to be homeowner responsibility and were not actually hit by the plow, but sustained damage due to flying, heavy, wet snow.

Dale Sherman, who will be a driver in one of the two trucks for our roads has municipal experience plowing in Middleburg Heights and Brookpark. Sherman also has condos, and developments they plow. Trustees are encouraged to call with any questions, anytime. It is important to both parties to keep communication open. Sherman is excited to be contracted for the snow plow season. Their goal is to be prompt and efficient. They are well prepared, and are mindful that it will take a time

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or two of running the route during storms to become aware of the learning curve for our streets. Trustee and Alex Sherman signed contract. Sherman and sons will get a copy emailed to them.

Ranger – When the truck gets to ¼ tank it should be filled, especially with 4 maintenance men on staff. Also there are some issues with a tire losing air. Can someone look into this? Dorothy will get information on fixing the tires or replacing. A Better Truck Cap gave a quote for a backup camera and alarm installed in the Ranger. Dorothy said it would be very helpful. **Moved** by Trustee Pavlick, second by Trustee Zieja to install a backup camera for the Ranger for \$725 from A Better Truck Cap. Roll: Monroe, yes; Pavlick, yes; Zieja, yes.

Norwalk road – Frontier has wires in a tree on Norwalk. Frontier had an appointment to come look at getting the wires out the tree so it can be taken down. The wires have been a problem for a good part of the year. Armstrong and Ohio Edison have been out to look, and both of them agree the wires are the responsibility of Frontier. ODOT needs a push to get the appropriate parties to clean up the area. Trustee Monroe will call ODOT.

Public Comment – Ron Fabich Wolff Rd. Mr. Fabich came to the June Trustee meeting to discuss the drainage ditch on his property that goes towards the right a way under the bridge because water has been backing up everywhere. The Township is only responsible for 30' from the bridge, trustee suggested they call the county engineer who stated it is actually 45' right away at a bridge. The major storms we have had this year have caused the water to back up severely. The ditch needs to be cut back, cleaned out and fixed. Greg Dobson Excavating has been contacted. He is very busy, and will be out later in the year. Penny started to clean it out herself. Roger Mittler, York maintenance came out alone. Ron and Penny Fabich helped to clear the ditch since it is a bigger job than one person could handle. The ditch is still full of sediment, roots, grapevines and it backs up. Trustee Monroe has been out to observe the conditions. A neighbor's new pond altered drainage paths. They have done the work requested by FEMA and the county engineers to fix this problem so the water flows in a different path and crosses the Fabich property to drain to the river. To make this flow better the ditch needs to be trenched out. When the water backs up it can be 3' high (up to their mailbox). To have standing water after cresting the hill from the east is dangerous and a liability for the township. Roger had arranged with a rental company to get a wood chipper to deal with all the debris from the ditch. Will the trustees still coordinate with more than one maintenance person to get the wood chipper and have a team since there is heavy brush to deal with? Ron has a contractor who is coming out to fix his driveway, but it cannot be coordinated until the township handles the ditch cleanout/reconfiguration. Ron's first concern is getting the proper drainage and slope off the road. The second concern is getting coordination between the trustees and the maintenance crew to work together on projects. Penny thinks the crew is very professional and does good work, but it seems like no one is meshing or communicating very well. The Fabich's hope this can be resolved before the winter hits, and are concerned if it is not handled before the spring thaw and rains.

Trustee Pavlick stated we have not had ability to pass a road levy in the last 10 years.

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Penny Fabich said to many people do not understand all the work that is included in the road's budget and would benefit from an education on what a road's levy can accomplish. Ditching, tree trimming, roadside mowing, salting, plowing, culverts, repairs, potholes, signs and paving are expensive tasks that are involved in road maintenance. If people were aware of what needs to be done and how much it costs they could make an informed decision when voting for a road's levy. If it fails then, at least people will be aware they must then clean up their own ditches, and come out and help the limited road's crew with heavy lifting and clean up like the Fabich family has done.

Dave Hull – Asked if the county has completely washed their hands of the bridge project? Yes, the county engineer stated it is a township project even though it goes under a bridge. Trustees have been back and forth but no success.

Motion to Adjourn by Pavlick, second by Zieja. Roll: Monroe, yes; Pavlick, yes; Zieja, yes.
Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.

Richard Monroe, Chairman

Margaret Russell, Fiscal Officer